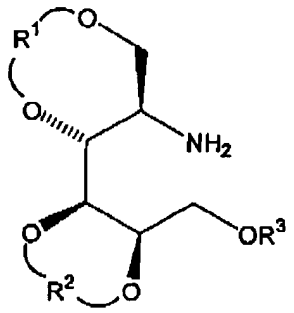
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof:



(I)

where R^1 and R^2 are each independently protecting groups which, together with the oxygen atoms to which they are attached, form part of a dioxane or dioxolane ring; and R^3 is hydrogen or a protecting group;

including the steps of:

(a) protecting the hydroxyl group at the C-6 position of *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine, to give a 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine, wherein the hydroxyl protecting group at the C-6 position is selected from the group consisting of a silyl group, a benzyl group, or an ester group;

(b) reducing the C-1 anomeric carbon atom of the 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine using a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of a metal hydride reducing agent or hydrogen gas/metal catalyst to give a 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannitol;

(c) protecting the four hydroxyl groups of the 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannitol with protecting groups ~~of formulae~~ R^1 and R^2 as defined above;

(d) removing the *N*-acetyl protecting group using basic conditions and optionally removing the C-6 oxygen atom protecting group using basic conditions to give the compound of formula (I).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where 2,2-dimethoxypropane in the presence of acetone is used to protect the four hydroxyl groups of the 6-*O*-protected-*N*-acetyl-D-mannitol in step (c), to give a 1:3,4:5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-D-mannitol.

9. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where both the *N*-acetyl protecting group and the C-6 oxygen atom protecting group are removed in step (d).

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(e) oxamoylation of the compound of formula (I) to give a 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannitol;

(f) removal of the R^3 protecting group using basic conditions, where R^3 is not H;

(g) oxidation of the C-6 carbon atom to give a 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose;

(h) double cyclisation of the 2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose using a methanolic ammonia solution to give kifunensine with four protected hydroxyl groups; and

(i) removal of the four hydroxyl protecting groups using acidic conditions to give kifunensine.

12. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where the removal of the R^3 protecting group in step (f) is carried out after the oxamoylation step (e).

13. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where the removal of the R^3 protecting group in step (f) is carried out after the oxamoylation step (e) and before the oxidation step (g).

14. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where oxamic acid and 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole are used for the oxamoylation of the compound of formula (I) in step (e).

15. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where the oxamoylation step (e) is a direct coupling of the compound of formula (I) with ethyl oxamate, oxalic acid mono-n-butyl ester or di-n-butyl oxalate.

16. (Original) A process according to claim 11 where pyridinium dichromate in the presence of activated molecular sieves and pyridinium trifluoroacetate is used for the oxidation of the C-6 carbon atom in step (g).

17. (Original) A process for preparing kifunensine including the steps of:

(a) silylation of *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine using *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl chloride as silylating agent, to give 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannose;

(b) reduction of 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannose using sodium borohydride as reducing agent, to give 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol;

(c) protection of the four hydroxy groups of 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol using 2,2-dimethoxypropane in the presence of acetone, to give 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol;

(d) double deprotection of the 6-*O*- and *N*-protecting groups of 6-*O*-*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-acetylamino-D-mannitol using aqueous barium hydroxide, to give 2-amino-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-D-mannitol;

(e) oxamoylation of 2-amino-2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-D-mannitol using oxamic acid and 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole, to give 2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannitol;

(f) oxidation of 2-deoxy-1,3:4,5-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannitol using pyridinium dichromate in the presence of activated molecular sieves and

pyridinium trifluoroacetate, to give 5-deoxy-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose;

(g) double cyclisation of 5-deoxy-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-oxamoylamino-D-mannose using a methanolic ammonia solution, to give 2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-kifunensine; and

(h) deprotection of 5,6:7,8-di-*O*-isopropylidene-kifunensine, using methanolic hydrochloric acid, to give kifunensine.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where the hydroxyl protecting group at the C-6 position of *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine in step (a) is a silyl protecting group.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to 19 where the silyl protecting group is *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl.

21. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where the basic conditions in step (d) are selected from aqueous barium hydroxide or sodium *n*-butoxide in *n*-butanol.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 11 where the basic conditions in step (f) are selected from aqueous barium hydroxide or sodium *n*-butoxide in *n*-butanol.

23. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 11 where the acidic conditions in step (i) are selected from methanolic hydrochloric acid or trifluoroacetic acid.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.